Start of [Ehem. Synagoge (Ro?muhle) in Stadt Korneuburg].

AR 4973

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AR 4973 1/1 [Ehem. Synagoge (Ropfmühle) in Stadt Kornneuburg] circa 1960

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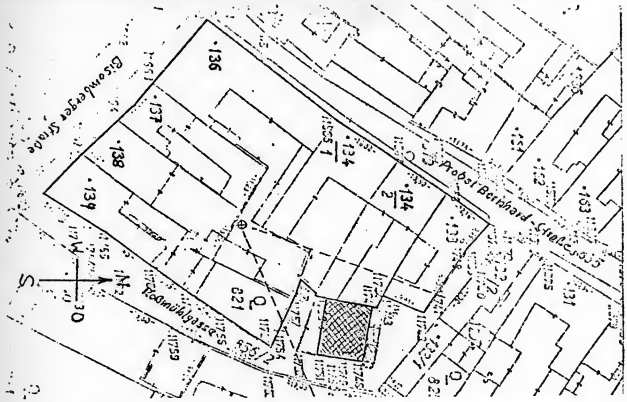
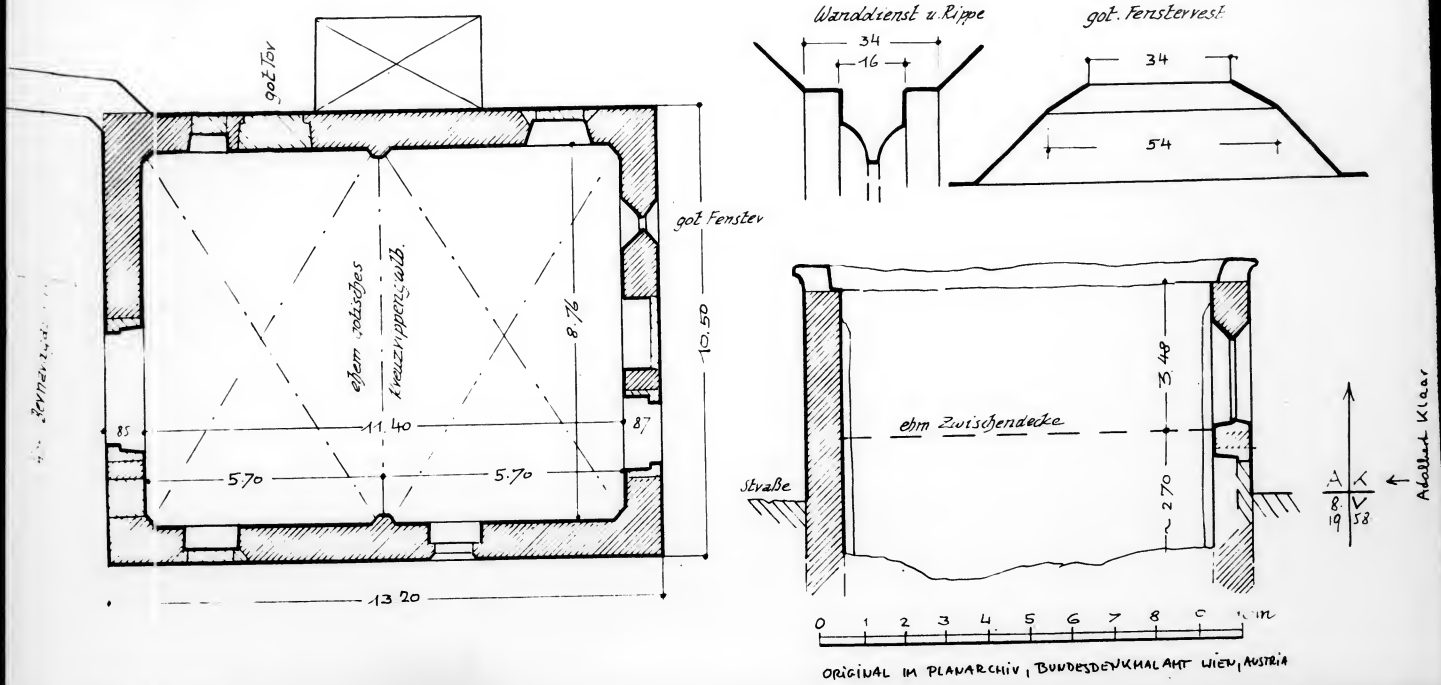
Hinterhof des Hauses Bisamberger Strasse 1, Korneuburg, Austria (Bauparzelle .136), im Hintergrund das Dach der ehemaligen Synagoge (spaeter "Rossmuehle", heute (1980) im Grundbuch als "Schuettkasten" der Bauparzelle.134/2, Propst Bernhard Gasse 6, in der Rossmuehl Gasse). Standpunkt der Kamera mit dem Ruecken zur Mauer von Bauparzelle .138, nach ost-nordost blickend. Personen: Jakob und Hedwig Schleidt mit Sohn Fritzl rechts hinten, die "alte Peppi" (ehem. Kinderfrau von Jakob und Bruedern) links, mit etwa 4 jaehrigem Philipp Schleidt, daneben unbekannte Frau, im rechten Mittelgrund Alfred Schleidt).
Datierung nach dem Alter der Kinder etwa 1902, (Herbst Nachmittag)



Backyard of house Bisamberger Strasse 1, Korneuburg, Austria (lot .136), in the background the roof of the former synagogue (later "horse-operated grist mill"; now (1980) on record as "grain silo" of lot .134/2, Propst Bernhard Strasse 6, in Rossmuehlgasse). Camera location with back to wall of lot .138, looking east-northeast.
Persons: Jakob and Hedwig Schleidt with son Fritzl right background, "alte Peppi" (former nanny of Jakob and his brothers) left background with Philipp Schleidt, about 4 years old, next to unknown woman, Alfred Schleidt in right middle ground.
Dated according estimated age of children: 1902 (fall afternoon).
(Original in posession of Wolfgang M. Schleidt, Wien 15)

Ehem. Synagoge (Roßmühle) in Stadt Korneuburg, Bernardgasse No6 Ecke Roßmühlgasse, Niederösterreich.

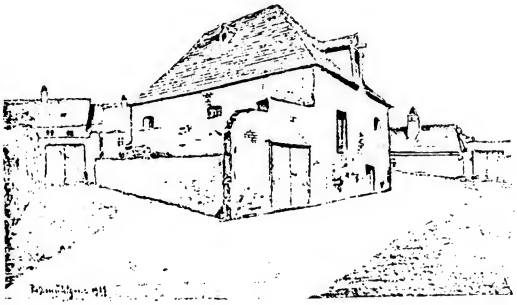


ORIGINAL IM PLANARCHIV, BUNDESDENKMALAMT WIEN, AUSTRIA

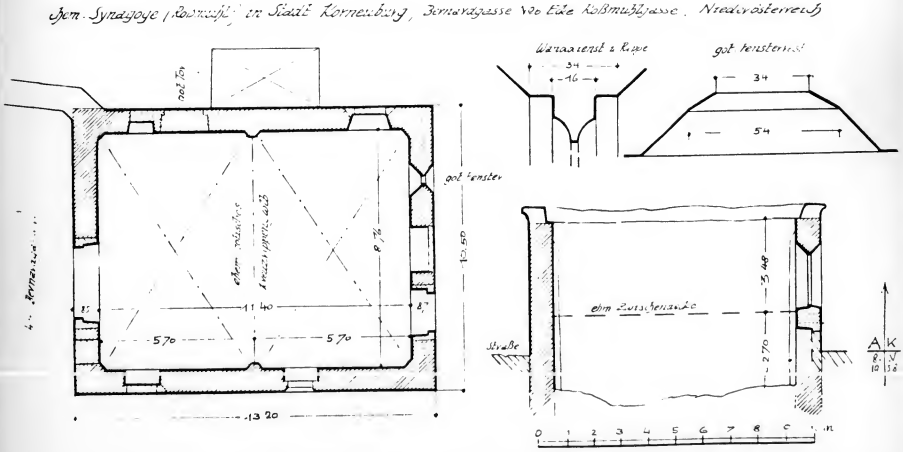
1) Leopold Moses: Die Juden in Niederösterreich; Glanz, Wien 1935 . Seiten 134-135 und Abb.9 der Synagoge nach Zeichnung von 1923

2) Grundbuch Korneuburg E.Z. 794, Bauparzelle 134/2 "Wohngebäude und Schüttkasten", Propst Bernhardstraße 6, Besitzer zu gleichen Teilen Alois und Anna Franziska Mandl lt. Kaufvertrag vom 26.Okt.1956.

3) A.Klaar: ehem. Synagoge (Roßmühle) in Stadt Korneuburg... , signiert A.K. 8.V.1958. Planarchiv d.Bundesdenkmalamtes.



Zustand 1923



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draft 27 September 1979

Preservation of the Medieval Synagogue of Korneuburg (Austria)

Korneuburg is a small town at the Danube, just a few miles stream-up from Vienna, and on the opposite bank (north) of the better known town and monastery Klosterneuburg (south of the Danube). Originally, both were parts of the same town Neuburg (means "Newcastle"), but when the north-section was flooded severely, it was moved to higher grounds, and was granted its independence in 1209(?). A jewish settlement existed in Klosterneuburg during the 12th and 13th century, apparently in and adjacent to the ducal palace, which it took over when the last Babenberger Duke had died, without having paid his debts to his banker. The earliest record of a jewish community in Korneuburg is contained in the investigation of an alleged desecration of a Host ("Korneuburger Hostienwunder") and subsequent stoning of a rabbi and his servant, dated 1302.[1] It is likely that the community ceased to exist in 1457, when Matthias Corvinus (King of Hungary) expelled jews from his area of influence. During the MiddleAges Korneuburg was a center of commerce, rivalling, at times, Vienna, and a strategically important stronghold, often besieged but rarely conquered. Later, Korneuburg became overshadowed by Vienna, and today it is only important as a administrative center (courthouse, etc.), and lacks the wealth of a solid tax base.

The synagog is a humble, but strong and impressive gothic building standing (free on 3 sides) one block off the main square (Hauptplatz), on a small square by itself, and connected by two walls to an old house; the walls, the synagog and the house surround a little garden. The early records show that the property was confiscated from the community in 1421, and presented as a gift to the town by Friedrich III (Hapsburg Emperor) in 1460.[2] The building was converted to a flour mill (horse-operated: "Roßmühle"), and still today the structure is designated in the records of property as grain silo ("Schüttkasten").

The synagog is built of irregular, natural stone, with the exception of the door- and window-frames, the corners of the building, and a middle section of the north and south wall, which are made of cut stone. When the building was converted to a mill, the tall gothic windows were partially bricked off, and a gothic archway was closed, and later (presumably during the baroque period) a loading door was inserted in the east wall at the second-floor level, and holes in the wall indicate the position of the floor joists of this level (I don't know whether this was part of the original design, or a later addition).

The originally present ribbed vault has been lost, but the insertion in the walls can be inferred from the corners, and the cut stone in the middle of the north and south wall. The wooden roof was lost in WW II, when in an air raid a bomb razed one of the neighboring houses.

The current owners of this property (house, garden and synagog), 2.)
bought it 1956. (Alois and Franziska Mandl, truckdriver and housewife). Their means appear rather limited, but they are not without ambitions, and have cleared out the "bomb rubble" and currently are fixing up their house, Mr. Mandl doing the bricklaying and Mrs. Mandl mixing the mortar on their free week end. Their sons are in their early twenties (estimate), and apparently car mechanics or car fanciers, and this must have led to the project to convert the synagog to a garage. According to Mr. Mandl, the structure is too tall for this purpose, and therefore, his plan is to reduce the height from the current 5 m to about 3 m, and to put on a new roof construction.

Strangely enough, although the synagog is apparently the only one of comparable state of preservation in Austria, and one of the oldest (if not THE oldest building of the town), it has found little interest. In 1958 Prof. A. Klaar, expert in age determination ("dating") medieval structures in Austria, made a study and plan of the building, and filed the plan with the "Bundesdenkmalamt" (National Agency for Historic Preservation). However, the building was not put on the register (which would limit the unauthorized change of the structure at least symbolically).[3] During Spring of 1979 I contacted several agencies (office of the mayor of Korneuburg, Israelitische Kultusgemeinde Wien, Bundesdenkmalamt, Chair for Judaistic Studies at the University of Vienna), a found interest, but no active support to save the building from its impending destruction. At the "Bundesdenkmalamt" Landeskonservator Dr. Kidlitschka promissed to start working on the process to put the building on the register at the occasion of my visit in his office on 18 June 1979, but I did not hear from him since.

In my oppinion, the only reliable way to save the building is to find means to purchase it from the current owners (Mr. & Mrs. Mandl), and to stop its further decay by covering it at least with a temporary roof. Although this project competes with the current efforts to restore the famous ghetto in Eisenstadt, it would be highly desirable to start a thorough investigation of the Korneuburg site, and subsequently find a use for the synagog which is compatable with its historic value.

End of [Ehem. Synagoge (Ro?muhle) in Stadt Korneuburg].